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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/08695 (22) International Filing Date: 9 November 1999 (09.11.99) (30) Priority Data: 1010559 16 November 1998 (16.11.98) NL (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PRIME MEMBRANE TECHNOLOGIES NV [BE/BE]; Boeretang 200, B-2400 Mol (BE). (72) Inventors: ADRIANSENS, Walter, Ludovicus, Carolus; Boshock 23, B-2400 Mol (BE). GENNE, Inge, Josfien, Marino; H. Hartplein 24/7, B-3500 Hasselt (BE). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SCHARSTUHL, Johan, Jan [NL/NL]; Schoolstraat 2A, NL-7495 TC Ambt Delden (NL). (74) Agent: KUPECZ, Arpad; Octrooibureau Los en Stigter B.V., Weteringschans 96, NL-1017 XS Amsterdam (NL).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: MICROPOROUS FLAT, CAPILLARY OR TUBULAR MEMBRANE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME		
(57) Abstract <p>The invention relates to a flat or capillary or tubular microporous membrane, comprising a water-insoluble biocidal compound. This compound is preferably an N-halamine polymer, while most preferably it is poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)-hydantoin. For water sterilization purposes the microporous membrane according to the invention comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin, and for air disinfection purposes 12-25% by weight. For disinfecting wound dressing the membrane according to the invention comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin. Finally, the invention relates to a method for the manufacture of such a microporous membrane having an efficient antibacterial and -viral activity.</p>		

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Microporous flat, capillary or tubular membrane and method of manufacturing the same

The present invention relates to a microporous flat, capillary or tubular membrane and method of manufacturing the same.

Such a membrane and method of its manufacture are
5 known from EP 0 241 995 B1 and EP 0 624 283 B1. The known membranes comprise polysulphones and zirconium oxide, with polysulphone being responsible for the mechanical structure of the membrane, while the zirconium oxide provides the permeability and the hydrophilic nature.

10 There is an increasing incidence of infectious diseases caused by bacteria and viruses, while at the same time the effectiveness of antibiotics is declining due to emerging new kinds of microorganisms which have become resistant to the known antibiotics.

15 In order to eliminate such microorganisms, chemical means are used, which chemical means, however, have the disadvantage that they are very toxic and have very undesirable side-effects which have been shown to be detrimental to health.

20 All over the world research is directed toward killing or filtering out microorganisms, without side-effects, before they become active in humans.

S.D. Worley et al in Trends in Polymers Science, Vol. 4, No. 11, November 1996 have described biocidal
25 polymers in the form of an amorphous solid material (granulate with a particle size between 20 μm and 300 μm) which is insoluble in water.

It has been shown that such biocidal polymers are capable of killing harmful microorganisms present in air
30 and water.

It has also been shown that such biocidal polymers cannot simply be used efficiently for the sterilization of water and air on an acceptably workable level.

Moreover, membranes have been developed in particular for the sterilization of water, which are better
35

capable of retaining very small microorganisms. However, the draw-back of these membranes is, that due to their small pores they have an inadequate flow velocity. Another draw-back of such membranes is the occurrence of bio-foul-
 5 ing, so that the pores become clogged.

The object of the present invention is to efficiently use the above-described biocidal polymers for the purification of water and air.

To this end the present invention provides a microporous membrane, flat, capillary or tubular, wherein the matrix of the membrane comprises a water-insoluble biocidal compound. Such a compound is a biocidal polymer and preferably a N-halamine polymer, and preferably a polystyrene hydantoin or a polystyrene triazinedione such
 10 as described by S.D. Worley et al.

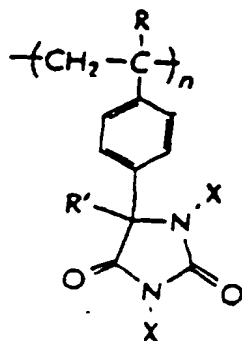
Surprisingly, such a biocidal polymer-comprising microporous membrane is particularly suitable for the sterilization of water despite the large pores that are necessary for good flow while in addition, bio-fouling of
 20 the membrane is reduced.

If such a membrane is hydrophobic, it has been shown to also be suitable for the disinfection of air.

The inclusion of a biocidal polymer in the matrix of the membrane appears to effectuate a complete
 25 inactivation of the bacteria and viruses, by way of supplementing the membrane's filtration properties.

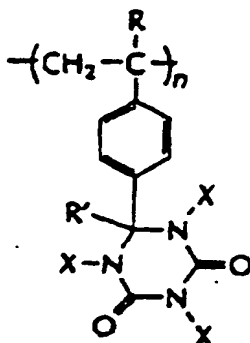
A particularly suitable membrane according to the invention is one comprising a polystyrene hydantoin with the formula 1

30



wherein X = Cl, Br, J
 R = H, CH₃
 R' = an alkyl group
 n = 10 - 50.10³

5 or a polystyrene triazinedione with the formula 2



wherein X = Cl, Br, J
 R = H, CH₃
 R' = an alkyl group
 n = 10 - 50.10³

Outstandingly effective membranes are membranes according to the invention, which as biocidal compound comprise poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin. In general, a good and adequate biocidal effect is obtained when the membrane comprises 0.5-25% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

When using the membrane according to the invention for water sterilization purposes, the membrane is effective when it comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin, whereas if one wishes to use the membrane according to the invention for the disinfection of air, it is advantageous if the membrane comprises 12-25% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

The invention further relates to a membrane, suitable for use as sterile disinfecting dressing for wounds,

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which membrane comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-di-
 iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

The invention further relates to a method of manu-
 facturing a hydrophobic microporous membrane or of manu-
 5 facturing a hydrophilic microporous membrane.

The method according to the invention for the manu-
 facture of a hydrophilic microporous membrane is charac-
 10 terized in that a membrane for water sterilisation or for
 wound dressing is manufactured by thoroughly mixing an
 organic solvent, a hydrophilic substance, a substance that
 does or does not form pores, a hydrophilic polymer and a
 15 water insoluble biocidal polymer with the formula 1 or 2,
 wherein X, R, R' and n have the meanings defined in claim
 4, after which the mixture is cast onto a support, coagu-
 lated in a water bath, optionally followed by treatment
 with an anorganic acid, rinsing and drying.

Preferably as organic solvent 41.4% by weight N-
 methylpyrrolidone, 5.6% by weight polysulphone, 17% by
 20 weight zirconium oxide, 34% by weight calcium carbonate,
 0.5% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone and 1.5% by weight
 poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)
 hydantoin are thoroughly mixed together, after which the
 mixture obtained is cast onto a support, forming a film
 25 which is subsequently coagulated in a bath of N-methylpyr-
 rolidone and water at room temperature, followed by treat-
 ment with a hydrochloric acid solution to dissolve calcium
 carbonate, after which the obtained membrane is rinsed
 with water at approx. 100°C and dried.

Apart from N-methylpyrrolidone, which is preferred,
 30 dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide, chloroform,
 tetrahydrofuran, etc. may be used as solvent.

In stead of zirconium oxide, aluminium oxide and
 titanium oxide may be used successfully.
 35 organic or anorganic pore formers may suitably be used for
 the formation of pores.

According to the invention, a hydrophobic membrane
 for the disinfection of air is manufactured by thoroughly
 mixing a solvent, polysulphone, a pore-forming compound

and a poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinyl-phenyl)hydantoin, after which the obtained mixture is cast onto a support forming a film, which is then washed twice, after which the pore-forming medium is dissolved in an acid, followed by rinsing the membrane and immersing the membrane in warm water.

A particularly favourable hydrophobic membrane is obtained according to the invention by thoroughly mixing 40% by weight N-methylpyrrolidone, 7.0% by weight polysulphone, 34% by weight calcium carbonate and 19.0% by weight poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinyl-phenyl)hydantoin, casting the obtained mixture onto a support and coagulating in a bath of 74.5% by weight N-methylpyrrolidone and 25.5% by weight water at room temperature, thereby producing a film, which is subsequently immersed in the same bath, after which the CaCO_3 in the film is dissolved by treatment with hydrochloric acid, followed by rinsing the film with water and immersing it in water of approx. 100°C for one hour.

The invention will now be further elucidated with reference to the following examples.

Example 1

Starting from the method described in EP 0 624 283 B1, wherein the matrix comprises poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin as biocidal compound, a very effectively biocidal membrane was obtained, which membrane was shown to be particularly suitable for the sterilisation of water.

In this example the compounds below were thoroughly mixed by high speed stirring:

	N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP)	41.4% by weight
	Polysulphone (Psf)	5.6% by weight
	Zirconium oxide (ZrO_2)	17.0% by weight
35	Calcium carbonate (CaCO_3)	34.0% by weight
	Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP)	0.5% by weight
	poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin	1.5% by weight.

After a homogenous mixture was obtained it was cast onto a support at a film thickness of 200 μm , after which the film obtained was subjected to coagulation in a bath of 74.5% by weight NMP and 25.5% by weight water at room temperature. The membrane was subsequently immersed in a second bath of the same composition at room temperature for at least 20 minutes.

Then the pore structure was realized by dissolving calcium carbonate in a 2 molar hydrochloric acid solution. After that the membrane was rinsed and immersed in water of 100°C for 1 hour and finally dried.

By this method a flat hydrophilic microfiltration membrane was obtained having a pore size of approx. 3 μm and a 6% final concentration of poly-1,3-dichloro-(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin in the membrane.

In a similar manner membranes were obtained having a final concentration of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4' vinylphenyl) hydantoin of 2% and 12% in the membrane, with a pore size of approx. 3 μm .

The microporous membranes comprising 2%, 6% and 12% poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin, manufactured according to example 1, were examined with respect to their water sterilising activity by placing them in a sterile vessel containing 50 ml water and a certain concentration of *Pseudomonas diminuta*. After a particular period of time a 0.5 ml sample was taken, incubated and measured at approx. 60-second intervals, in order to determine the membrane's bacteria-killing activity.

It was shown that after 1 hour a 2% membrane still exhibited bacterial activity.

Using a membrane with 6% by weight of the N-halamine, the bacteria were shown to be dead in less than 1 hour, whereas when using a membrane with 12% by weight of N-halamine, all bacteria appeared to have been killed within 25 minutes.

Subsequently the membranes were attached to the end of a tube, through which water was conducted that was pol-

luted with 3.5×10^4 CFU *Pseudomonas diminuta* per 30 ml. *P-diminuta* is a bacterium having a size of $0.1 - 0.3 \mu\text{m}$, which easily passes a membrane having an average pore size of approx. $3 \mu\text{m}$. While the polluted suspension was conducted through the membrane, samples were taken at regular intervals of between 1 and 35 minutes. It was shown that membranes comprising 2% by weight of N-halamine reduce bacterial activity in every permeate sample by approx. 85%. No bacterial activity was registered in the permeate samples of the remaining membranes, comprising 6% and 12% respectively of the N-halamine.

The flow velocity of the polluted water through the membranes with a surface of approx. 38 cm^2 corresponded with 1 litre in 15 minutes.

Subsequently a comparative experiment was carried out in which the biocidal polymer poly-1,3-dichloro (dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin as such was used.

A 10 mm thick layer of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin was transferred onto a fine-mesh support in a tube having the same diameter, while the poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin was covered with the same kind of fine-mesh material. Similar bacteria-polluted water as mentioned above was introduced into the tube. The poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin had become a muddy paste, through which the water as mentioned above was introduced into the tube. The poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin had drop by drop. The permeate samples from the middle of the tube showed no bacterial activity. Other samples from the fact that the walls did show bacterial activity, due to the

It will be clear, that when poly-1,3-dichloro (dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin is used as such, it does not offer a practicable application for the sterilisation of water. To obtain an effective practical system the N-halamine (polystyrene hydantoin) has to be incorporated in a mechanical structure such as in accordance with the invention, in a membrane matrix, thereby

obtaining an efficient bacteria-killing activity at a good flow velocity.

Surprisingly it was shown that the membranes comprising the poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin, also possessed good virus-killing activity.

It will be obvious that the microporous membrane according to the invention comprising the N-halamine (polystyrene hydantoin), may also be used in the form of a capillary or tubular membrane.

Example 2

According to another embodiment, a membrane was prepared from

15	N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP)	17.0% by weight
	Polyethersulphone	77.4% by weight
	Poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin	5.6% by weight.

20

After thorough mixing the mixture was spun in a standard spinning apparatus, after which the product obtained was allowed to coagulate in water at approx. 60°C. The capillary ultra filtration membrane obtained comprised a final concentration of poly-1,3-dichloro-(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin of 6.7% at a cut-off of 150.000 Daltons and a flux of 500 l/m²/hour/bar.

A bundle of capillary membranes was made, using the capillary membranes from Example 2, and a bundle of capillary membranes was made that did not comprise poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4' vinylphenyl) hydantoin. These bundles were placed into polluted water for 48 hours. The bio-fouling in the capillary membranes from Example 2 was shown to be reduced by a factor 4 compared with the capillary membranes without poly-1,3-dichloro-(dibromo)-5-methyl-5- (4' vinylphenyl) hydantoin. This was established after 48 hours.

Example 3

The following compounds were thoroughly mixed and subsequently cast onto a support, obtaining a film of 200 μm thickness.

5	N-methylpyrrolidone	61.5% by weight
	Polyethersulphone	20.0% by weight
	2 Metoxymethanol	15.7% by weight
	PEG 4000	0.9% by weight
	Poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)	
10	-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)	
	hydantoin	1.9% by weight

The film was allowed to coagulate in a water bath at approx. 60°C.

15 By this method a flat hydrophilic microfiltration membrane was obtained comprising 8.3% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin and having a pore size of approx. 0.2 μm . The flux was 5000 l/m²/hour/bar.

20 A flat membrane according to Example 3 was produced, and a flat membrane without poly-1,3-dichloro-(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin, and placed into polluted water for 48 hours. Subsequently the bio-fouling in both types of membranes was examined, showing that the bio-fouling in the membranes from Example 3
25 was reduced by a factor 2 compared with the membranes without poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin. This was established after 48 hours.

Subsequently the membranes were attached to the end
30 of a tube and water was passed through containing 1 x 10⁷/L Rotavirus.

While the water was passed through the membranes, samples were taken at regular intervals. The membrane from Example 3 was shown to be able to kill the Rotavirus in
35 the permeate for 99.99%, while the membrane without the poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin only showed a reduction of 62%, which was probably due to the membranes' physical retention of the viruses.

It will be obvious that in stead of a flat microporous membrane it is also possible to produce a capillary or tubular membrane.

5 Example 4

This example describes the composition and preparation of a flat flexible microfiltration membrane which, through the addition of poly-1,3-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin can be used as a disinfecting wound dressing.

	N-methylpyrrolidone	61.0% by weight
	Ethanol	25.0% by weight
	Polyurethane (PU)	8.0% by weight
	Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP)	4.0% by weight
15	Poly-1,3-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin	1.0% by weight.

The N-methylpyrrolidone is added to the ethanol and subsequently stirred for 30 minutes, after which the mixture is subjected to vigorous mixing. The polyvinylpyrrolidone was then added gradually, while the mixer was stirring at 3000 rotations per minute. After all the polyvinylpyrrolidone was added mixing was continued for another 5 minutes.

25 After 1 hour of mixing, the polyurethane and the poly-1,2-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin was added while stirring vigorously.

After degassing for 24 hours and subsequent filtration, the polymer solution is ready for use.

30 The polymer solution was cast onto a support in a film of approx. 200 μm thickness, after which the thus obtained film was allowed to coagulate in a water bath at 60°C.

The result was a hydrophilic flat microfiltration membrane, comprising 7.7% of the poly-1,3-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin having a pore size of 0.2 μm . The membrane was flexible and foldable, making it particularly suitable for use as disinfecting wound dressing.

Example 5

In this example a hydrophobic membrane is manufactured for the disinfection of air.

The following components were thoroughly mixed:

5	N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP)	40.0% by weight
	Polysulphone (Psf)	7.0% by weight
	Calcium carbonate (CaCO_3)	34.0% by weight
	Poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)	
	-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)	
10	hydantoin	19.9% by weight.

The mixture obtained was cast onto a support in a film having a thickness of 400 μm , after which the film was allowed to coagulate in a bath of 74.5% by weight NMP and 25.5% by weight water at room temperature. The membrane was subsequently immersed in a second bath of the same composition and temperature for at least 20 minutes.

Subsequently the pore structure was realized by dissolving the CaCO_3 in a 2 molar hydrochloric acid solution. Then the membrane was rinsed and immersed in water of approx. 100°C for approx. 1 hour. Finally the membrane was dried.

By this method a flat hydrophobic membrane was obtained having a pore size of approx. 1 μm and a final concentration of 73% of the poly-1,3-dichloro-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin in the membrane.

After some time the membranes have to be reactivated as the chlorine- (bromine-, iodine-) atoms become extracted from the poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl) hydantoin after some time.

To this end the membranes are treated with a chlorinated solution. Obviously, if bromo- or iodo-comprising N-halamines are used, one uses a bromine- or iodine-comprising solution.

Quite conceivably a membrane with a cellulose structure in which a biocidal compound is comprised may also have a satisfactory biocidal effect.

It goes without saying that the invention is not limited to the above-mentioned examples.

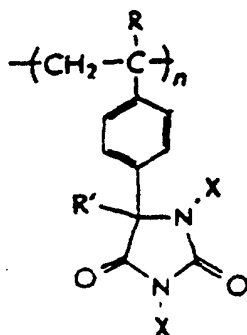
CLAIMS

1. A microporous flat or capillary or tubular membrane, characterized in that the matrix of the membrane comprises a water-insoluble biocidal compound.

2. A membrane according to claim 1, characterized in that the biocidal compound is a biocidal polymer.

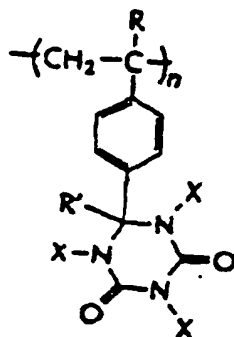
3. A membrane according to claim 2, characterized in that the biocidal polymer is a N-halamine polymer.

4. A membrane according to claim 3, characterized in that the N-halamine polymer is a polystyrene hydantoin with the formula 1



wherein X = Cl, Br, J
R = H, CH₃
R' = an alkyl group
n = 10 - 50.10³

or a polystyrene triazinedione with the formula 2



wherein X = Cl, Br, J
R = H, CH₃
R' = an alkyl group
n = 10 - 50.10³

5 5. A membrane according to claims 1-4, **characterized** in that membrane comprises 0.5-25% by weight of the biocidal compound.

6. A membrane according to claims 1-5, **characterized** in that the membrane as biocidal compound comprises
10 poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

7. A membrane according to claim 6, suitable for water sterilisation, **characterized** in that the membrane comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-
15 5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

8. A membrane according to claim 6, suitable for air filtration, **characterized** in that the membrane comprises 12-25% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

20 9. A membrane according to claim 6, suitable for sterile wound dressing, **characterized** in that the membrane comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

10. A method for the manufacture of a hydrophilic
25 microporous membrane according to claims 1-9, **characterized** in that a membrane for water sterilisation or for wound dressing is manufactured by thoroughly mixing an organic solvent, a hydrophilic substance, a substance that does or does not form pores, a hydrophilic polymer and a
30 water insoluble biocidal polymer with the formula 1 or 2, wherein X, R, R' and n have the meanings defined in claim 4, after which the mixture is cast onto a support, coagulated in a water bath, optionally followed by treatment with an anorganic acid, rinsing and drying.

35 11. A method for the manufacture of an air filtration microporous membrane, **characterized** in that a hydrophobic membrane is manufactured by thoroughly mixing a solvent, polysulphone, a pore-forming compound and a poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)-

hydantoin, after which the obtained mixture is cast onto a support forming a film, which is then washed, after which the pore-forming medium is dissolved in an acid, followed by rinsing and drying

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 99/08695

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B01D69/02 B01D67/00 A61L2/23 A61L15/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B01D A61L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 670 646 A (CHEN TAY-YUAN ET AL) 23 September 1997 (1997-09-23) abstract	1-11
Y	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 10, 31 October 1996 (1996-10-31) & JP 08 157637 A (UNITIKA LTD), 18 June 1996 (1996-06-18) abstract	1-11
X	--- GB 1 521 171 A (UNIV STRATHCLYDE) 16 August 1978 (1978-08-16) claim 1	1, 10
X	--- US 5 006 267 A (VAUGHN WALTER L ET AL) 9 April 1991 (1991-04-09) claim 1	1
	--- -/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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national Application No
PCT/EP 99/08695

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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1

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Information on patent family members

national Application No

PCT/EP 99/08695

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(54) Title: MICROPOROUS FLAT, CAPILLARY OR TUBULAR MEMBRANE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME		
(57) Abstract		
<p>The invention relates to a flat or capillary or tubular microporous membrane, comprising a water-insoluble biocidal compound. This compound is preferably an N-halamine polymer, while most preferably it is poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)-hydantoin. For water sterilization purposes the microporous membrane according to the invention comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin, and for air disinfection purposes 12-25% by weight. For disinfecting wound dressing the membrane according to the invention comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin. Finally, the invention relates to a method for the manufacture of such a microporous membrane having an efficient antibacterial and -viral activity.</p>		

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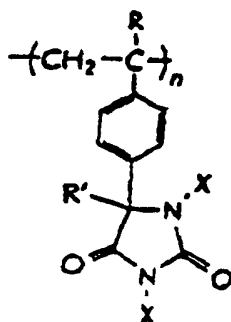
AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 8 June 2000 (08.06.00);
original claims 1-11 replaced by amended claims 1-9 (3 pages)]

1. A microporous flat or capillary or tubular membrane, comprising a water-insoluble biocidal compound, characterized in that the matrix of the membrane comprising the biocidal compound comprises a biocidal polymer, and wherein the membrane comprises 0.5-25% by weight of the biocidal compound.

2. A membrane according to claim 1, characterized in that the biocidal polymer is a N-halamine polymer.

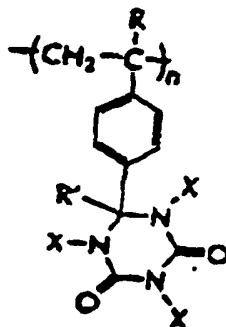
3. A membrane according to claim 2, characterized in that the N-halamine polymer is a polystyrene hydantoin with the formula 1



25

wherein X = Cl, Br, J
R = H, CH₃
R' = an alkyl group
n = 10 - 50.10³

30 or a polystyrene triazinedione with the formula 2



AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

wherein X = Cl, Br, I
R = H, CH₃,
R' = an alkyl group
n = 10 - 50.10³

5 4. A membrane according to claims 1-3, characterized in that the membrane as biocidal compound comprises poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo, di-iodo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

10 5. A membrane according to claim 4, suitable for water sterilisation, characterized in that the membrane comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

15 6. A membrane according to claim 4, suitable for air filtration, characterized in that the membrane comprises 12-25% by weight of poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

20 7. A membrane according to claim 4, suitable for sterile wound dressing, characterized in that the membrane comprises 0.5-12% by weight of poly-1,3-di-iodo-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin.

25 8. A method for the manufacture of a hydrophilic microporous membrane according to claims 1-7, characterized in that a membrane for water sterilisation or for wound dressing is manufactured by thoroughly mixing an organic solvent, a hydrophilic substance, a substance that does or does not form pores, a hydrophilic polymer and a water insoluble biocidal polymer with the formula 1 or 2, wherein X, R, R' and n have the meanings defined in claim 3, after which the mixture is cast onto a support, coagulated in a water bath, optionally followed by treatment with an anorganic acid, rinsing and drying.

35 9. A method for the manufacture of an air filtration microporous membrane, characterized in that a hydrophobic membrane is manufactured by thoroughly mixing a solvent, polysulphone, a pore-forming compound and a poly-1,3-dichloro(dibromo)-5-methyl-5-(4'-vinylphenyl)hydantoin, after which the obtained mixture is cast onto a support forming a film, which is then washed, after which

the pore-forming medium is dissolved in an acid, followed
by rinsing and drying

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)